

# Life's Choices Kaua'i

Empowering our community to be drug-free.



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## Proposed Adolescent Residential Treatment and Healing Facility Frequently Asked Questions

**1. Why are you siting this facility so close to a neighborhood and not in a remote area?**

*The establishment of a residential treatment facility in a neighborhood is often the preferred method of care for adolescents as these surroundings assist with their healing process. The proximity of the facility to a neighborhood is a profound communication, to address that this is our commitment to heal our keiki and recognize that they are children of our community and they should be treated like any other child in it. To take our children and put them in isolation does not reflect the true spirit of 'ohana that is unique to our culture. This notion of 'ohana is the very reason why other community based programs in Hawai'i like Bobby Benson Center and Marimed Foundation have shown such success in their years of service.*

**2. Who will operate the facility and how will they be regulated?**

*The Treatment Facility will be operated by an agency with residential treatment experience. The agency will be selected through the County Procurement Process. The facility will have to be licensed by the State of Hawai'i, Department of Health, Office of Health Care Assurance, State Licensing Section. The staff of the facility, who provide counseling services and administer the curriculum, will be certified by the State of Hawai'i, Department of Health, Drug and Alcohol Division.*

**3. Why Isenberg?**

*The County of Kaua'i has a wonderful opportunity to partner with Grove Farm in siting the treatment and healing facility. Although no formal agreement has been made, Grove Farm has proposed to donate the land to the county for the facility. The Isenberg site was selected because it met the mandatory criteria for developing this facility with as little development costs as possible; it is in close proximity to existing infrastructures (roads, water, sewer, and electricity), there is three to five acres of flat land, and it is centrally located with easy access to other support services.*

**4. What other locations were looked into and why weren't they selected?**

- *Kipū: no access to water and sewer and would require major intersection improvements*
- *Kapaia: limited due to sloping topography and there is no sewer service*
- *Līhu'e Big Save: retrofitting/renovating the existing facility for a treatment facility would not be feasible due to the limited surrounding land area and configuration of the existing building*
- *Līhu'e Auto Maintenance Shop Facility: retrofitting/renovating the existing facility for a treatment facility would not be feasible due to the limited surrounding land area and configuration of the existing building*
- *Land adjacent to Kaua'i Community Correctional Center: parcel is located in a flood zone*
- *Land near Līhu'e Airport: no access to water and sewer services*

**5. What kinds of compensation will the residents of Isenberg receive, like Kekaha receives Host Community Benefits for the landfill?**

*This is a question that can be considered when the final determination on a site is reached, and any impacts can be assessed.*

**6. How many suicides were there in the last year?**

*In the year 2012, there were 11 people who died by suicide and 43 attempted suicides. Of those 54 cases, 14 were adolescents under the age of 21: 12 attempted and 2 deaths.*

**7. Who will make the final decision of the location of the treatment facility?**

*The Mayor, with the concurrence of the County Council, will make the final decision based on community outreach and discussions, and the results of the feasibility, design/architectural and environmental studies. Several options are currently being considered and the Mayor anticipates making a recommendation no later than November of this year.*